

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph beginning at page 18, line 19 and ending at page 19, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As can be seen from Figure 4, whenever a reset signal for the electronic shuttering operation is supplied to an arbitrary i^{th} (where $1 \leq i \leq m$) row included in the effective pixel area, a readout operation is performed on another row. For example, while ~~resetting for the electronic shuttering operation~~ a readout operation is being performed on the m^{th} row, ~~a readout operation~~ resetting for the electronic shuttering operation is being performed on the $(m+3)^{\text{rd}}$ row. Were it not for the dummy pixel rows, i.e., the $(m+1)^{\text{st}}$ through $(m+3)^{\text{rd}}$ rows in this case, the readout operation could not be performed on any row while resetting for the electronic shuttering operation is being performed on the $(m-2)^{\text{nd}}$ to the m^{th} rows. --